(b) if so, the details of suggestions made therein and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A three day seminar on Environment Management Systems (ISO 14000) was organised by the Chandigarh regional Office of the National Productivity Council. During the seminar suggestions were made for creating awareness among the industries regarding the requirements of Environment management Systems and certification for ISO 14000. The ISO 14000 has been notified by the International Standards Organisation in October 1996. India is one of the member bodies in the International Standards Organisation and is actively participating in the development of ISO standards.

CAG Report on Ganga Action Plan

2153. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG in his report has indicated the Government for wasting money earmarked for Ganga Action Plan for building unnecessary guest houses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the State Governments have diverted the money meant for Ganga Action Plan for other purposes; and

(c) if so, the action Government have taken in this regard and how Government plan to ensure proper utilisation of money earmarked for Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER . OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General in his report for the period upto March, 1994 on the Ganga Action Plan has observed about the construction of a guest house at Hardwar at a cost of Rs. 5.00 lakhs as an irregular expenditure. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to recoup this expenditure.

(b) and (c) there are diversion of funds meant for the Ganga Action Plan in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The two Governments have been asked to recoup the diverted funds. In order to ensure proper utilisation of money earmarked for the Ganga Action Plan, unsanctioned expenditure, if any, incurred by the State Governments are disallowed.

Declining Population of Royal Bengal Tigers

2154. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime in November 1996, the House of Commons had expressed its concern over the declining population of Royal Bengal Tiger in the country and had asked the Government to give highest priority to protect the tigers facing extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Though the reports to this effect had appeared in the Press, any official communication is yet to be received by the Government. It would, therefore be, premature to offer any comments in this matter.

पशुओं के अधिकार

2155. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि**:**

(क) सरकार को अंतराष्ट्रीय पशु अधिकार लीग द्वारा 1978 में बनाए गए पशु अधिकारों की सार्वजनिक घोषणा किए जाने की जानकारी है,

(ख) क्या सरकार का इसे स्वीकार करने और इसे पशुओ पर क्रूरता निवारण अधिनियम का हिस्सा बनाने का विचार है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो. सैफुद्दीन सोज) : (क) जी, हां

(ख) और (ग) संविधान के अनुच्छेद 51(क) में व्यवस्था है कि प्रत्येक नागरिक का मौलिक कर्तव्य है कि सभी सजीव जीवों के प्रति दया दिखाई जाए और प्राकृतिक सम्पत्ति जैसेकि वन, नदियां, झीलों और वन्य जीवों आदि की सुरक्षा की जाए । सरकार ने जीवजन्तु क्रूरता निवारण अधिनियम, 1960 अधिनियमित किया है और भारतीय जीवजन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड की स्थापन की है । सरकार का यह विचार है कि जीवजन्तु अधिकारों की सार्वभौम घोषणा कर देना ही तब तक प्रभावी उपाय नहीं है जब तक कि उसे जन-जागरूकता से सुदृढ़ नहीं कर दिया जाता । राष्ट्रीय सरकार, राज्य सरकारों एंव संघ शासित प्रशासनों द्वारा जनजागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए विशेष रूप से बच्चों में पशुओं के प्रति दया का महत्व बताने के लिए मिलजुलकर प्रयत्न किए जा रहे हैं । सरकार जीवजन्तुओं के कल्याण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए इन कार्यों को जारी रखेगी और हर संभव कार्य करेगी ।

Environmental Clearance for ONG Irrigation Project

2156. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest clearance has been accorded to ONG Irrigation Project in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Government of Orissa submitted a proposal in May, 1988 for diversion of 237.90 ha, of forest land for construction of ONG Dam Irrigation Project in Sambalpur district. The proposal was examined in the Ministry and site inspection was carried out.

The Government of Orissa was thereafter requested to furnish additional information vide this Ministry's letter dated 2.12.88. As per record of this Ministry, no reply has been received till date form the Government of Orissa.

तीर्थस्थलों में प्रदूषण होने के संबध में शिकायतें

2175. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन** : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत मे उन प्रमुख तीर्थस्थलों के नाम क्या है जहां प्रदूषण होने की शिकायतें मिली हैं,

(ख) क्या सरकार ने संबधित राज्य सरकारों को प्रदूषण की रोकथाम करने हेतु अनुदेश जारी किये है और यदि हां, तो उस राज्य सरकारों की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है, और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में तीर्थस्थलों पर लाउडस्पीकरों के प्रयोग के कारण ध्वनि प्रदूषण हो रहा है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो. सैफुद्दीन सोज) : (क)और (ख) पुरी, वाराणसी , इलाहाबाद, हरिद्वार उज्जैन और नासिक जैसे कुछ प्रमुख तीर्थस्थलों में प्रदूषण के बारे में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं । इनमें से अधिकांश तीर्थस्थल नदियों के किनारे स्थित है । सरकार ने इन नदियों के प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए विभिन्न उपाय किए हैं । केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा गंगा कार्य योजना और यमुना कार्य योजना कार्यान्वित की जा रही है । संबधित राज्य सरकारों ने भी इस बारे में प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपाय शुरू किए है ।

(ग) इन तीर्थस्थलों में शोर प्रदूषण के बारें में सरकार को कोई शिकायत नहीं मिली है॥

Increase in Environmental Degradation

2158. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be please' L- state:

(a) whether the environmental degradaton is increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof with factors responsible for it;

(c) whether coal ash emitted by Power Plants is a major factor for such environmental degradation;

(d) whether Government propose to take some measures to check such degradation;and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Rapid growth in industrial and other developmental activities and substantial increase in population levels are contributing to environmental degredation in the country.